

lowland areas have "sustained agriculture for three centuries" and today "the foothills . . . are cultivated as high as possible with sugar below and ground provision above" (Bent 1971:93). Palaeontological studies have shown that man-caused habitat destruction was responsible for the extinction of numerous small vertebrates on Antigua within the past 3500 years (Steadman *et al.* 1984). Many of these extinctions may have taken place during the colonial period, when plantation agriculture usurped the greater part of the land area of the Lesser Antilles (see e.g. Harris 1965).

Drier lowland areas appear to be more favourable for birds in the West Indies (Pregill & Olson 1981) and if wet uplands were not the preferred habitat for *L.p. grandis*, its reduced numbers on St. Kitts in historic times would be understandable. A much diminished population in suboptimal habitat might have been more susceptible to any one of a number of factors, or combination of factors, that might have effected its extinction, though what the ultimate cause may have been is still not readily discerned.

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A nest of the Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus* parasitized by a honeyguide in Uganda

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Near Kaazi, c. 10 km from Kampala, Uganda, I found a nest of the Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus aequatorialis* on 24 February 1964. One of the barbets flew to a hole 11 m up in a dead stump of an otherwise living tree, with a

large black item of prey, probably a beetle. It called on alighting at the nest hole, when a second barbet appeared from inside the chamber and was fed before flying off. The first barbet then entered the nest hole. There were 3 holes in the short dead branch, the one in use being 20 cm from the main trunk. The entrance hole was 47 mm in diameter. The inside diameter of the nest chamber was later found to be 88 mm, the floor being 40.6 cm below the entrance. The nest contained 3 fresh eggs which lay on small wood chips and insect remains. Two of the eggs were barbet's, and appeared deep pink due to their blood-orange coloured yolks showing through the white shells. The third egg was that of a honeyguide, which appeared cream coloured when intact. The barbet's eggs measured 27.5 x 20.0 and 27.2 x 19.5 mm; they were matt and undamaged. The honeyguide's egg, very rounded and glossy, measured 19.6 x 18.0 mm.

Discussion

Although I made no detailed notes on the habitat of this area, it was certainly second growth, heavily degraded by human activity, but with scattered large trees remaining. From the late 1960s to the early 1970s the Kaazi area was under cultivation, mainly bananas and coffee, amidst open grassy patches with thickets and termite mounds and scattered large trees (M. Carswell and R. Frankum). *Lybius* barbets are parasitized exclusively by the Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor* in Zambia (pers. obs.) and probably, despite statements in the literature to the contrary, throughout Africa. I have been unable to trace any records where young honeyguides were collected and positively identified as belonging to *I. minor* from nests other than barbets. Nor have I seen any photographs or good field descriptions of young birds which would support the many old statements that the Greater Honeyguide *I. indicator* sometimes victimises barbets or that the Lesser Honeyguide sometimes parasitizes other bird families. Moreover, studies by Short & Horne (1983) suggest that Greater Honeyguides are not strongly attracted to calling by *Lybius* barbets, but that Lesser Honeyguides certainly are, and they show that the 6 specimens collected at barbet call sites in Kenya were all *I. minor*. The honeyguide's egg can be assumed to be that of *I. minor*, but is abnormally rounded and therefore unusually short in length. It may well be also unusually broad. If the length of this egg is multiplied by its breadth a figure of 352.8 is obtained. Length times breadth of 4 Lesser Honeyguides' eggs from Zambia average 346.1 (range 306.9 - 368.5). The volume of the honeyguide's egg from Kaazi thus falls within the range of *I. minor*. Furthermore, Dr. M. Carswell has records of the occurrence of this honeyguide in the general area and habitat of Kaazi and agrees that *I. minor* is the most likely host.

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